

# THE NEW-YORK TRIBUNE

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# THE TRIBUNE.

*From the Morning Chronicle of Friday.*

Well, the Tribune gives us his opinion upon the question of wages and improvement in machinery, lately discussed by the *Morning Post*.

The Tribune and all other journals in this city have hitherto advocated the rights of the latter, and is prepared as well by their feeling as general knowledge of the subject to give a correct opinion. We ask The Tribune, however, if he can tell us what is fair in paying wages, and in operation direct, principal and agent, to assist to the laboring classes—forcing them by *free competition* to war with each other, and in the unwholesome state to cut down wages and reduce them to poverty?

We ask the Tribune, also, if the property by subscription and sale of important works, beneficial to laboring or producing classes, as industry is now conducted with Capital diverted from Labor in interest? 3. We ask if machinery monopolized by Capital which hires or employs Labor does not work against instead of for the mass?

Let The Tribune answer these questions, and we believe it to be governed by principle, and not by the condition of the popular cause, as to the high-toned pretenders who talk so loudly about *democratic principles*, the equality and liberty of the people, and yet maintain the monastic and aristocratic system of the former, and the latter to be the cause of much misery and degradation, a *capitalist* to dig a tarchman's garden, and a *reactionary* to claim a rich man's horses, (or his horse) or worse, which enable the owner of the soil and the workshop to deny him even existence, by refusing to employ him at all when his services are not needed, to "add to the rich man's wealth" or to heighten his enjoyment.

Reply.

The *Chronicle* has been for some days engaged in a skirmish with the *Morning Post* on topics mainly involved in the above questions. As both these journals are anti-protective in their principles, we can hardly hope to please either of them by an exhibition of our views, yet, since these questions are curiously put to us, we will endeavor to answer them as fully as we may in the half hour and half column we can devote to the subject. To begin, then—

1. We do not think the present mode of prosecuting Industry entitled to the name of "system." It strikes us rather as an assemblage of accidental, chaotic, incongruous conditions. Its essential fault appears to us to be the want of system. A "System of Industry," which should secure to every person something to do and a fair reward for it, appears to us the great desideratum. So too of "free competition," we think that another unmeaning or deceptive phrase. You may call a race between one man in a sack and another on a horse a "free race," if you choose, but the term does not seem to us a happy one. To fair and equal competition we have no objection, though we believe the competition of the people of one nation in the regular supply of the markets of another with such articles as that one can with equal facility supply themselves is generally an evil. Better that each should learn to minister to its own wants, and thus save costly needless transportation. We think a free trade among all nations in the light and costly articles of manufacture would be injurious to the laboring classes of all by increasing the amount of labor (including transportation) required to produce those articles, diminishing the regularity of employment, and reducing the average of payment for labor, actual as well as nominal.

2. We do not think improvements in machinery, permanently injurious to the Laboring Classes, though instances of partial and temporary injury are notorious. The Cotton Gin is a striking example of the benefits of machinery to Labor. The Printing Press has doubtless given employment to far more men than it at first threw out of employ, notwithstanding the strenuous efforts of the economists to prove that the net result was a loss to society. The printing press has worked to the satisfaction of all parties. There the demand for houses does not come, as in New-York, all at once, but it is equalized throughout the entire year. And yet the system has no tendency, as might at first glance be imagined, to produce frequent removals—the contrary, changes are far less frequent in that city than they are here. Indeed it is nothing uncommon for tenants to occupy the same house ten or fifteen years in succession. The unwillingness of tenants to incur the expense and trouble of removing, and the injury their furniture must inevitably sustain in the process, will always operate as a salutary check upon capricious changes; and in that fact, the landlord has all the power over his tenant which he ought to possess.

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# NEW-YORK DAILY TRIBUNE.

BY GREELEY & McELRATH.

OFFICE NO. 160 NASSAU-STREET.

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NEW-YORK, MONDAY MORNING, JANUARY 30, 1843.

FIVE DOLLARS A YEAR.

WHOLE NO. 563.

From the Baton Rouge Gazette.

Mr. Clay in Louisiana.

This gentleman made his descent on Louisiana last Wednesday. He left Natchez on Tuesday and arrived at the dwelling of Judge Chinn in West Baton Rouge the next morning before day-light. During the day it became known in the neighborhood that "the great orator" had "dropped in" on his way down, and several gentlemen, anxious to greet a man whom the Country proudly claims for a son, lost no time in resorting to the residence of the Judge. Owing to some uncertainty that prevailed respecting his arrival, East Baton Rouge was represented but by two persons, J. W. F., Esq. and myself. We reached the plantation about three o'clock P. M., while the family, and such visitors as had not already dined, were at table. We were ushered into a beautiful parlor, in which a highly respectable company were seated, and on the centre-table of which stood a fine bust of Henry Clay. I had never seen the man, and though busts and lithographic likenesses of him were as familiar to my mind as "household gods," I examined this more intently than I had ever examined one before. I was soon to look upon the original, and felt an anxious curiosity as to how far Art had been just to Nature. The comparison was not long delayed; in a few minutes a side-door opened, and the man of Nature stood before the man of Art. He came forward and was presented to the company individually, taking each by the hand, and exchanging a few familiar words with that easy grace for which he has been ever remarkable. My eyes involuntarily reverted to the bust, and then again to the original. Time had not been idle with the latter. The former had remained young—had stood still while years rolled on; the latter had been the companion of years, in their progress to Eternity; and silver hairs and furrowed cheeks and brows, the attenuated frame and gently sloping verisure, gave melancholy proof of the ruthless ravages of Time, who

"only rids us of flowers."

The likenesses of Mr. Clay are in general sufficiently striking to enable any one to recognize the man, even in a throng; but they afford, notwithstanding, an unfaithful, and somewhat exaggerated picture of his real appearance. This, however, is the common frailty of Art; but for this, he might attain perfection in her works. Mr. Clay's head is smaller than I had supposed, and his gray eyes, bound round closely by their filaments of skin and fibre, peer forth less voluminously than phrenologists would lead me to expect in one possessing such eminent control of language. His nose is straight—his upper lip long—neither feature at all remarkable, according to the theories of Lavater and Gall. His mouth is light, and his chin short, with an almost imperceptible curve. At the temples his head is sunken, betraying, according to some phrenologists, a signal aptitude for the recollection of names; and yet I think Mr. Clay is not often embarrassed on this point. I am not certain, however. From his temples up, the volume of his head increases with poetic grace. The frontal and frontal parietal bones are full and beautifully moulded, and every inward of the upper and occipital regions of the head is drawn with a light and easy balance, which pleases, though it may not strongly impress, the observer.

2. We do not think improvements in machinery, permanently injurious to the Laboring Classes, though instances of partial and temporary injury are notorious. The Cotton Gin is a striking example of the benefits of machinery to Labor. The Printing Press has doubtless given employment to far more men than it at first threw out of employ, notwithstanding the strenuous efforts of the economists to prove that the net result was a loss to society. The printing press has worked to the satisfaction of all parties. There the demand for houses does not come, as in New-York, all at once, but it is equalized throughout the entire year. And yet the system has no tendency, as might at first glance be imagined, to produce frequent removals—the contrary, changes are far less frequent in that city than they are here. Indeed it is nothing uncommon for tenants to occupy the same house ten or fifteen years in succession. The unwillingness of tenants to incur the expense and trouble of removing, and the injury their furniture must inevitably sustain in the process, will always operate as a salutary check upon capricious changes; and in that fact, the landlord has all the power over his tenant which he ought to possess.

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musical and mellifluous to a degree that charms his enunciation clear, sweet and measured. If one left him that evening without saying in his heart, "God bless and speed thee, Harry!" certainly that person was not the writer.

For The Tribune.

BENTS TOO HIGH—A WORD TO TENANTS.—No. 3.

The proper course for tenants to pursue in the event that landlords shall persist in exacting exorbitant rates of rent, becomes a question of vital interest to thousands. One thing is certain: tenants cannot henceforth pay the prices which they have submitted to this year; nor need they do it. Perhaps at no previous period has so favorable an opportunity as the present presented itself for tenants to make themselves heard in regard to this whole matter.

In this city it has heretofore been the practice to lease all buildings on or about the first day of February of each year; and contracts have in nearly all cases been made for the term of one year. Hence every person in quest of a house has felt the necessity of securing one very soon after the period in question, under pain of finding himself another year, without a roof over his head, or of being compelled at the last moment to give himself over to the tender mercies of some Shylock who has been lying in ambush for unfortunate like himself. Under this system, it cannot be denied that landlords have a most undine advantage over tenants; and it may be asserted, without risk of contradiction, that in no city in the country are there so many heartburnings between landlords and tenants as in this. A system which operates so oppressively ought to done away with; and it is for this reason that I have suggested the following:

If your landlord threatens to *put a lock on the house*, unless you accede to unreasonable demands, let him do so; for be assured you will have it in your power to take your choice, either to revert to the bust, and then again to the original. The former had remained young—had stood still while years rolled on; the latter had been the companion of years, in their progress to Eternity; and silver hairs and furrowed cheeks and brows, the attenuated frame and gently sloping verisure, gave melancholy proof of the ruthless ravages of Time, who

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ECONOMY IN DRESS.—Extensive

assortment of Rich, fashionable and elegant goods, winter wear, WM. T. JENNINGS, No. 220 Broadway American Hotel, offers for the inspection of the public, an extensive assortment of seasonable goods, comprising Bedding and Mill'd Goods, for Serious, Sacks, Frocks, &c.

The Stock Overcoat (so much in vogue) afforded fourteen dollars, cut and trimmed to first style, will be taught by the strength of the economist.

Cassimines in a great variety of styles for Parades, &c.

In this article a trial is made of the

Rich Brocade Silk and satin vestings, (entire new styles)

Rich Broads, partings, Merino, Velvets, plain Silks, & Cassimines, all of which will be made up to order under the superintendence of *excellent tailors* as can be found in the country, at prices to suit the times for ready money.

4. While we think it a mistake of the Chronicler that Machinery now works *against* the Mass., we regret that it does not work *for* them, as it ought to do, and might be made to do, if they would but turn their attention to the Practical Melioration of their condition through means consistent with the highest good of all. This improvement is not to be obtained through strife, and depressing competition, but through union, harmony, and all-embracing beneficence. The Laborers of England now produce ten times as much as the same number would have done sixty years ago, and yet they receive no more for their labor, whether in nominal or actual value, than those of 1783 did; while the Rents, Incomes, and Profits of the more fortunate classes have enormously increased. We do not believe the condition of the Laborers of England would have been essentially better if no machinery had been invented since 1783; worse we think it could have been. Our view is, that so long as Labor and Capital shall stand in the relations they now occupy, as it does, we must be led to the conclusion that the former is the Divinely appointed sustenance of the Poor. While we do not question that "Whatever is, is right," in the largest sense and that all things are overruled for good, we believe there is now a tendency in society toward a state of things in which the Rich shall no more be taxed in charities to support the Poor, and the great mass of the Laboring Class will be no longer dependent on the necessities or caprice of the Rich for chance to earn their bread and keep the wolf from the door. Such a change the genius of our Political Institutions clearly predicts and requires; such a change will be beneficial to all, and will at length be effected with the hearty co-operation of all, though at first it must be urged forward by the few. Such is our answer to the questions of the Chronicler; it is not so specific as we could desire, and will only be fully understood by those who have read the preceding controversy between the Chronicler and the Post.

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